

# Conservation Security Program



*You've been  
taking care  
of natural  
resources  
on your  
land for  
years...  
  
...now,  
you have a  
chance to be  
financially  
rewarded  
for your  
work.*

## Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers who are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

CSP rounds out a portfolio of conservation for America's farmers and ranchers. CSP is helping producers improve management of private lands through NRCS conservation services and programs to sustain past environmental gains, address current resource problems, and provide for regulatory relief.

## The Watershed Approach

To provide the best service possible to producers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis. Focusing on high priority watersheds allows NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program were implemented nationwide because of limits on both program and technical assistance funding in Fiscal Year 2005.

CSP is being offered in watersheds across the country. The Chetco Watershed has been chosen as a CSP priority watershed for 2005.

## Signing up for CSP

Applicants will be selected at the national level for the 2005 sign-up. The fact sheet entitled "CSP Eligibility, Qualification and Application Steps" contains detailed information about applying for CSP. Generally, to apply, land managers will need to complete the following steps:

1. Attend an informational meeting and self-assessment workshop to learn more about CSP and receive assistance in finalizing your self-assessment workbook.
2. Complete a self-assessment workbook.
3. Gather appropriate records and documentation.
4. Contact your local Farm Service Agency to receive a USDA (also called SCIMS) Identification Number.
5. Set up an appointment with your Local NRCS staff to confirm your eligibility, documentation and determine your enrollment category.
6. Submit your Conservation Stewardship Plan.
7. If you are selected for funding, complete your Conservation Stewardship Contract.

For additional information on the Conservation Security Program in Oregon, go to [www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov).

# Conservation Security Program in Lower Willamette



## *Lower Willamette Watershed*

### Watershed Acres:

Total - 261,000

Private Land - 194,600

### Land Use Acres:

Cropland - 15,400

Pastureland - 24,900

Orchards/Vineyards - 3,100

Forestland - 111,000

### 624 Working Farms

### Major Commodities:

Nursery

Hay and Forage

Vegetables

Cane Berries & Strawberries

Cattle and Dairy

Agro-forestry

### For More Information Contact the Local NRCS Field Office:

St. Helens 503-397-4555

Portland 503-326-3941

Oregon City 503-655-3144

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## **CSP 2005 in the Lower Willamette Watershed**

The Lower Willamette Watershed is made up of eleven sub-watersheds including the Columbia Slough, Johnson Creek and Sauvie Island.

Major waterways in the Lower Willamette include the Willamette River, Multnomah Channel, Scapoose Bay and Creek, and Johnson Creek. The Lower Willamette Watershed contains habitat for a variety of species including coho, Chinook and steelhead.

The land that makes up the Lower Willamette Watershed was heavily influenced by the Missoula Floods and their associated fluvial deposits. This unique area lies at the confluence of the mighty Columbia and Willamette Rivers. The results are exemplified in the fertile and deep alluvial soils along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

Agriculture in the Lower Willamette is a diverse blend of large nurseries, small farms, large multi-crop systems, and fruit and vegetable growers. Culturally, this watershed contains the highest population density of any watershed in Oregon.

The identified priority resource issues in the watershed on the working lands include soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat and growing urbanization.

